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PATENT

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Inventor(s): Fred S. Cook
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Title: INTRANET PLATFORM SYSTEM

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APPEAL BRIEFIntroductory Comments

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 41.30 *et seq.*, the Assignee hereby appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (hereinafter "the Board") from the claim rejections issued in the final Office action dated August 5, 2005. A notice of appeal was filed on the same day as this appeal brief.

Real Party In Interest

The entire interest of Fred S. Cook in the present application has been assigned to Sprint Communications Company, L.P. (hereinafter "the Assignee"), as recorded at Reel 011178, Frame 0251.

Related Appeals and Interferences

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There are no prior or pending related appeals or interferences.

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27 are pending in the application.

Claims 2, 11 and 20 are canceled.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27 have been finally rejected.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27 are being appealed.

Status of Amendments

No amendments have been filed subsequent to the final rejections.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Generally speaking, “[i]ntranets are private networks that use Internet software and standards to provide Internet type services to individuals with access rights. However, unlike the Internet, outside users cannot access intranet applications. Security is built into these applications, such that only authorized users have access.” (Page 2, lines 25-28.)

In order to provide such security, claim 1 presents a method for providing access to an intranet. The method initially includes providing to users intranet access cards containing intranet access information for intranet configurations. (Page 6, lines 25 and 26; and Fig. 2, operation 201.) These cards, for example, “could be physical cards provided over the counter at a merchant location or provided by a service provider. In another example, the intranet access cards could be virtual cards provided over the Internet via a file download or e-mail account.” (Page 7, lines 19-22.)

An intranet configuration defines at least one connection employable by a plurality of users between a plurality of intranet communication devices within the intranet. (Page 5, lines 20-30.) A set of intranet services provided to a user or group of users depends on the intranet configuration. (Page 6, lines 27-29.) The intranet access information could be any information, such as a telephone number and access code, permitting a user or group of users to access an intranet configuration. (Page 7, lines 10-

18.)

After an access card is provided to a user, a request message for access to the intranet from a requesting communication device employed by the user is received. (Page 7, lines 24 and 25; and Fig. 2, operation 203.) The request message includes the intranet access information from the access card. (Page 7, lines 25 and 26.) The request message is then processed to determine if an intranet configuration for the access card exists. (Page 7, lines 26-28; and Fig. 2, operation 204.)

If the intranet configuration exists (Fig. 2, operation 205), the intranet access information is processed to connect the requesting communication device to the intranet configuration, thereby providing the intranet services associated with the intranet configuration to the user of the communication device. (Page 8, lines 3-6; and Fig. 2, operation 206.)

If, instead, the intranet configuration does not exist (Fig. 2, operation 205), the intranet access information is processed to execute a script to create the intranet configuration (Fig. 2, operation 207) and to connect the requesting communication device to the intranet configuration. (Page 8, lines 6-12.) Also created is a card configuration for the intranet access card which associates the card with the intranet configuration. (Page 9, lines 18-21. See also Fig. 5, operation 411.) The card configuration includes information for configuring the requesting device for optimal access speed over the connection with the intranet configuration. (Page 9, lines 21-23.)

Independent apparatus claim 10 provides an intranet platform system 100 including a processing system 101 coupled with an interface system 104, as shown in Fig. 1. (Page 4, lines 22 and 23.) The interface system 104 is configured to receive a request message for the processing system 101 from a requesting communication device of a user. (Page 7, lines 24 and 25.) The processing system 101 processes the request message substantially according to the method of claim 1. (Page 7, lines 26-28.)

Independent apparatus claim 19 sets forth a software product for use in operating an internet platform system. The software product includes processing system instructions and interface system instructions employed to essentially perform the operations of method claim 1. The processing system instructions and the interface system instructions are both stored on a storage medium. (Page 10, lines 18-25.)

As a result, various embodiments of the present invention automatically configure and manage access to multiple intranet configurations within an intranet by groups of users, each of which may have access rights to a different intranet configuration.

Grounds of Rejection to Be Reviewed on Appeal

1. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0029350 to Cooper et al. (hereinafter "Cooper") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,241,565 to Kloc et al. (hereinafter "Kloc"), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0054019 to de Fabrega (hereinafter "de Fabrega") and U.S. Patent No. 6,223,177 to Tatham et al. (hereinafter "Tatham").

Argument

Outline

- I. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)
 - a. Use of the de Fabrega Reference in the Final Rejection of Claims 1, 10 and 19, and the Allowability of Claims 1, 10 and 19 in View Thereof
 - b. Use of the Tatham Reference in the Final Rejection of Claims 1, 10 and 19, and the Allowability of Claims 1, 10 and 19 in View Thereof
 - c. Use of the Kloc Reference in the Final Rejection of Claims 1, 10 and 19, and the Allowability of Claims 1, 10 and 19 in View Thereof
 - d. Allowability of Claims 3-9, 12-18 and 21-27

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper in view of de Fabrega, Tatham and Kloc. The Assignee respectfully submits that portions of de Fabrega, Tatham and Kloc relied upon for purposes of the rejection do not teach or suggest portions of claims of the present application as stated in the final Office action.

a. Use of the de Fabrega Reference in the Final Rejection of Claims 1, 10 and 19, and the Allowability of Claims 1, 10 and 19 in View Thereof

Claim 1 provides that "in response to determining the intranet configuration does not exist, processing the first intranet access information to execute a script to *create the intranet configuration....*" Claims 10 and 19 provide corresponding limitations.

The final Office action indicates that "[d]e Fabrega also discloses the ability to *create an intranet configuration if one does not yet exist for the customer* and connecting the customer to the configuration after it is created (0023; 0032; 0053; 0054)." (Page 5 of the final Office action; emphasis supplied.) The Assignee respectfully disagrees, as de

Fabrega only discusses determining whether a user is a current user or a new user, and *does not determine whether an intranet configuration exists*, as the configuration already exists, and thus *does not create an intranet configuration*.

More specifically, de Fabrega provides a media kiosk 10 providing public access to an e-commerce intranet via one or more carrels 11. (Paragraph [0044], and Fig. 2.) A user may log onto a carrel 11 as a current user if he already has an ID for access to the e-commerce intranet coupled with the carrel. (Paragraph [0054].) However, if the user is a new user, the user receives an ID and password which allows him to “anonymously access *any* of the free e-commerce intranet services 12a.” (Paragraph [0054]; emphasis supplied.) Thus, only an ID and a password for the particular user are created in de Fabrega, *not* an intranet configuration as set forth in claims 1, 10 and 19. Also, as each user accesses the same preexisting e-commerce intranet, new intranet configurations need not be created, as they are in claims 1, 10 and 19. Thus, the Assignee contends that claims 1, 10 and 19 are allowable for at least these reasons.

b. Use of the Tatham Reference in the Final Rejection of Claims 1, 10 and 19, and the Allowability of Claims 1, 10 and 19 in View Thereof

Independent claim 1 of the present application also sets forth, in part, an intranet configuration which “defines at least one connection employable by a plurality of the users between *a plurality of intranet communication devices* within the intranet.” Also, claim 1 indicates that the intranet services provided to a user “*depend on the intranet configuration*.” Claims 10 and 19 provide similar limitations.

The final Office action indicates that “Tatham discloses a network based groupware system and teaches the establishment of a dedicated intranet site wherein a plurality of users may connect to the *intranet configuration* (Col. 3, lines 50-55; Col. 4, lines 1-10, 25-35 and 42-60).” (Page 6 of the final Office action.) The Assignee respectfully disagrees with this characterization of Tatham, as *Tatham does not disclose an intranet configuration* as set forth in claims 1, 10 and 19, and therefore cannot teach a plurality of users connecting to an intranet configuration.

Generally, Tatham discloses a server 10 which allows the formation of a workgroup concentrating on a particular group project. (Column 4, lines 49-52; and Fig.

1.) In forming a workgroup, a primary user defines various parameters of the group, such as the name and website of the workgroup to be created, scope of the project undertaken, number and contact addresses of group members, and the types of user applications to be utilized. (Column 4, lines 55-65.) However, a *single server* 10, to which a primary user 30 and a secondary user 40 are connected, is presented which provides multiple websites for the various workgroups and individuals. (Column 3, lines 61-67; and Fig. 1.) Thus, no specification of an intranet configuration is required for each workgroup, as each workgroup apparently employs the single server 10, as opposed to a *plurality of intranet communication devices*, the connection of which defines an intranet configuration, as in claims 1, 10 and 19.

Also, since each workgroup in Tatham may utilize a different set of applications through the *same server* 10, as mentioned above, the group of services provided to each workgroup does *not* depend on a particular intranet configuration, as provided for in claims 1, 10 and 19. In other words, the services offered in Tatham are varied for each workgroup, even though the workgroups all employ the same server 10.

Therefore, Tatham does not provide for the use of a particular intranet configuration for a plurality of users, as alleged in the final Office action, because Tatham does not describe an intranet configuration as provided for in claims 1, 10 and 19. Thus, the Assignee asserts that claims 1, 10 and 19 are allowable for at least this additional reason.

**c. Use of the Kloc Reference in the Final Rejection of Claims 1, 10 and 19,
and the Allowability of Claims 1, 10 and 19 in View Thereof**

Claim 1 of the present application further provides, in part, that “the first card configuration associates the first intranet access card with the intranet configuration,” and further that “the first card configuration comprises information for configuring the first requesting communication device of the first user for optimal access speed over the connection with the intranet configuration.” Independent claims 10 and 19 include similar provisions.

The final Office action indicates “Kloc teaches that it is known in the art to provide wherein the *first card configuration* comprises information for configuring the

first communication device of the first user for optimal access speed over the connection *with the intranet configuration*. Col. 2, lines 65-67, Col. 3, lines 1-10. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the intranet access card of Cooper et al with *the first card configuration* comprising information for configuring the first communication device of the first user for optimal access speed over the connection *with the intranet configuration of Kloc et al*, in order to provide the most efficient mode of operation.” (Page 7 of the final Office action; emphasis supplied.) The Assignee respectfully disagrees, as no motivation exists to combine Kloc with the other references.

Generally, Kloc provides “a *telecommunications system* [which] intermittently checks and, if necessary, adjusts the power level of the transmitted data as a function of the transmission characteristics of the transmission line so as to optimize transmission performance.” (Abstract; emphasis supplied.) Kloc indicates that some previous communicating devices optimized data transmission by altering the modulation rate of data transmitted to a receiver in accordance with the error rate of the data arriving at the receiver. (Column 3, lines 3-19.) In other words, the modulation rate is decreased if a high error rate is being produced, and vice-versa.

However, Kloc does not mention the use of such a mechanism with respect to internets or intranets, or configurations therefor. Also, Kloc does not disclose access cards, or configurations pertaining to those cards. Similarly, none of the other references, such as Cooper, de Fabrega, and Tatham, mention a need for optimizing access speed over their particular intranets. As a result, no motivation is provided to combine the references applied in the final Office action in such a way to use the error rates of Kloc as information for a card configuration associated with an intranet configuration. As a result, claims 1, 10 and 19 are not obvious in view of Kloc. Thus, the Assignee asserts the claims 1, 19 and 19 are allowable for at least this additional reason.

d. Allowability of Claims 3-9, 12-18 and 21-27

Claims 3-9 depend from independent claim 1, claims 12-18 depend from independent claim 10, and claims 21-27 depend from independent claim 19. Therefore, claims 3-9, 12-18 and 21-27 incorporate the provisions of their corresponding

independent claims. Thus, the Assignee respectfully asserts claims 3-9, 12-18 and 21-27 are allowable for at least the reasons provided above with respect to claims 1, 10 and 19.


Conclusion

In light of the foregoing remarks, the Assignee submits that the final rejections of claims 3-9, 12-18 and 21-27 are erroneous, and respectfully requests their reversal.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 21-0765 the requisite fee (37 C.F.R. 41.37(a)(2) and 41.20(b)(2)) for this appeal brief and the corresponding notice of appeal. The Assignee believes that no additional fees are due with respect to this filing. However, should the Office determine that additional fees are necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/3/05



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Claims Appendix

The following is a list of claims involved in this appeal:

1. A method for providing access to an intranet, the method comprising:

providing intranet access cards to users, wherein the intranet access cards include intranet access information for intranet configurations;

receiving a first request message for access to the intranet from a first requesting communication device employed by a first user who receives a first intranet access card;

processing the first request message to determine if an intranet configuration providing access to intranet services exists, wherein first intranet access information for the intranet configuration is produced, and wherein the intranet configuration defines at least one connection employable by a plurality of the users between a plurality of intranet communication devices within the intranet;

in response to determining the intranet configuration exists, processing the first intranet access information to connect the first requesting communication device of the first user to the intranet configuration to provide the intranet services associated with the first intranet access card to the first user, wherein the intranet services provided depend on the intranet configuration; and

in response to determining the intranet configuration does not exist, processing the first intranet access information to execute a script to create the intranet configuration, to create a first card configuration for the first intranet access card, and to connect the first requesting communication device of the first user to the intranet configuration to provide the intranet services associated with the first intranet access card to the first user, wherein the intranet services provided depend on the intranet configuration;

wherein the first card configuration associates the first intranet access card with the intranet configuration; and

wherein the first card configuration comprises information for configuring the first requesting communication device of the first user for optimal access speed over the connection with the intranet configuration.

2. (Canceled)

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

in response to determining the intranet configuration exists, processing the first intranet access information to determine if the first card configuration exists; and

in response to determining the first card configuration does not exist, processing the first intranet access information to create the first card configuration.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein processing the first request message to determine if the intranet configuration exists comprises:

generating a first query message that includes a request for the first intranet access information provided with the first intranet access card;

transmitting the first query message;

receiving a first response message that includes the first intranet access information; and

processing the first intranet access information to determine if the intranet configuration exists.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein processing the first intranet access information to execute a script to create the intranet configuration comprises:

processing the first intranet access information to validate the first intranet access card.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein processing the first intranet access information to create the first card configuration comprises:

in response to validating the first intranet access card, executing an intranet card configuration script to configure the first requesting communication device for access to the intranet configuration using the first intranet card; and

storing the first card configuration.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a second request message for access to the intranet from a second user

who receives a second intranet access card;

processing the second request message to determine if a second card configuration exists for the second intranet access card, wherein second intranet access information for the intranet configuration is produced;

in response to determining the second card configuration exists, connecting a second requesting communication device of the second user to the intranet configuration;

in response to determining the second card configuration does not exist, processing the second intranet access information to create the second card configuration; and

in response to creating the second card configuration, connecting the second requesting communication device of the second user to the intranet configuration.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein determining if the second card configuration exists comprises:

generating a second query message that includes a request for the second intranet access information provided with the second intranet access card;

providing the second query message;

receiving a second response message that includes the second intranet access information; and

processing the second intranet access information to determine if the second card configuration exists.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein processing the second intranet access information to create the second card configuration comprises:

processing the second intranet access information to validate the second intranet access card; and

in response to validating the second intranet access card, executing a second intranet card configuration script to configure the second requesting communication device for access to the intranet configuration using the second intranet access card; and storing the second card configuration.

10. An intranet platform system comprising:

a processing system configured to process a first request message from a first requesting communication device employed by a first user having a first intranet access card to determine if an intranet configuration exists, wherein first intranet access information for an intranet configuration providing access to intranet services is produced, and wherein the intranet configuration defines at least one connection employable by a plurality of users between a plurality of intranet communication devices within the intranet, in response to determining the intranet configuration exists, process the first intranet access information to connect the first requesting communication device of the first user to the intranet configuration to provide the intranet services associated with the first intranet access card to the first user, wherein the intranet services provided depend on the intranet configuration, and in response to determining the intranet configuration does not exist, process the first intranet access information to execute a script to create the intranet configuration, to create a first card configuration for the first intranet access card, and to connect the first requesting communication device of the first user to the intranet configuration to provide the intranet services associated with the first intranet access card to the first user, wherein the intranet services provided depend on the intranet configuration; and

an interface system coupled to the processing system and configured to receive the first request message for the processing system from the first requesting communication device of the first user;

wherein the first card configuration associates the first intranet access card with the intranet configuration; and

wherein the first card configuration comprises information for configuring the first requesting communication device of the first user for optimal access speed over the connection with the intranet configuration.

11. (Canceled)

12. The intranet platform system of claim 10 wherein in response to determining the intranet configuration exists, the processing system is configured to process the first

intranet access information to determine if the first card configuration exists, and in response to determining the first card configuration does not exist, process the first intranet access information to create the first card configuration.

13. The intranet platform system of claim 12, wherein the processing system is configured to generate a first query message that includes a request for the first intranet access information provided with the first intranet access card, and process a first response message that includes the first intranet access information to determine if the intranet configuration exists; and

wherein the interface system is configured to transmit the first query message and receive the first response message for the processing system.

14. The intranet platform system of claim 13 wherein the processing system is configured to process the first intranet access information to validate the first intranet access card.

15. The intranet platform system of claim 13 wherein the processing system is configured to execute an intranet card configuration script to configure the first requesting communication device for access to the intranet configuration using the first intranet access card, and store the first card configuration in response to validating the first intranet access card.

16. The intranet platform system of claim 10 wherein the processing system is configured to process a second request message to determine if a second card configuration exists for a second intranet access card, wherein second intranet access information for the intranet configuration is produced, in response to determining the second card configuration exists, connect a second requesting communication device of a second user to the intranet configuration, and in response to determining the second card configuration does not exist, process the second intranet access information to create the second card configuration and connect the second requesting communication device of the second user to the intranet configuration; and

wherein the interface system is configured to receive the second request message for access to the intranet for the processing system.

17. The intranet platform system of claim 16 wherein the processing system is configured to generate a second query message that includes a request for the second intranet access information provided with the second intranet access card and process a second response message including the second intranet access information to determine if the second card configuration exists; and

wherein the interface system is configured to transmit the second query message and receive the second response message for the processing system.

18. The intranet platform system of claim 17 wherein the processing system is configured to process the second intranet access information to validate the second intranet access card, and in response to validating the second intranet access card, execute a second intranet card configuration script to configure the second requesting communication device for access to the intranet configuration using the second intranet access card, and store the second card configuration.

19. A software product for use in operating an intranet platform system, the product comprising:

processing system instructions operational when executed by a processor to direct a processing system to process a first request message from a first requesting communication device employed by a first user having a first intranet access card to determine if an intranet configuration exists, wherein first intranet access information for an intranet configuration providing access to intranet services is produced, and wherein the intranet configuration defines at least one connection employable by a plurality of users between a plurality of intranet communication devices within the intranet, in response to determining the intranet configuration exists, processing the first intranet access information to connect the first requesting communication device of the first user to the intranet configuration to provide the intranet services associated with the first intranet access card to the first user, wherein the intranet services provided depend on the

intranet configuration, and in response to determining the intranet configuration does not exist, processing the first intranet access information to execute a script to create the intranet configuration, to create a first card configuration for the first intranet access card, and to connect the first requesting communication device of the first user to the intranet configuration to provide the intranet services associated with the first intranet access card to the first user, wherein the intranet services provided depend on the intranet configuration;

interface system instructions operational when executed by the processor to direct an interface system to receive the first request message for access to the intranet from the first requesting communication device of the first user who receives a first intranet access card; and

a storage medium operational to store the processing system instructions and the interface system instructions;

wherein the first card configuration associates the first intranet access card with the intranet configuration; and

wherein the first card configuration comprises information for configuring the first requesting communication device of the first user for optimal access speed over the connection with the intranet configuration.

20. (Canceled)

21. The product of claim 19 wherein in response to determining the intranet configuration exists, the processing system instructions are operational to process the first intranet access information to determine if the first card configuration exists, and in response to determining the first card configuration does not exist, process the first intranet access information to create the first card configuration.

22. The product of claim 21, wherein the processing system instructions are operational to generate a first query message that includes a request for the first intranet access information provided with the first intranet access card, and process a first response message that includes the first intranet access information to determine if the intranet

configuration exists; and

wherein the interface system instructions are operational to transmit the first query message and receive the first response message for the processing system.

23. The product of claim 22 wherein the processing system instructions are operational to process the first intranet access information to validate the first intranet access card.

24. The product of claim 22 wherein the processing system instructions are operational to execute a first intranet card configuration script to configure the first requesting communication device for access to the intranet configuration using the first intranet access card, and store the first card configuration in response to validating the first intranet access card.

25. The product of claim 19 wherein the processing system instructions are operational to process a second request message to determine if a second card configuration exists for a second intranet access card, wherein second intranet access information for the intranet configuration is produced, in response to determining the second card configuration exists, connect a second requesting communication device of a second user to the intranet configuration, and in response to determining the second card configuration does not exist, process the second intranet access information to create the second card configuration and connect the second requesting communication device of the second user to the intranet configuration; and

wherein the interface system instructions are operational to receive the second request message for access to the intranet for the processing system.

26. The product of claim 25 wherein the processing system instructions are operational to generate a second query message that includes a request for the second intranet access information provided with the second intranet access card and process a second response message including the second intranet access information to determine if the second card configuration exists; and

wherein the interface system instructions are operational to transmit the second

query message and receive the second response message for the processing system.

27. The product of claim 26 wherein the processing system instructions are operational to process the second intranet access information to validate the second intranet access card and in response to validating the second intranet access card, execute a second intranet card configuration script to configure the second requesting communication device for access to the intranet configuration using the second intranet access card and store the second card configuration.

Evidence Appendix

No other evidence has been submitted by the Assignee or entered by the Examiner.

Related Proceedings Appendix

There are no prior or pending related appeals or interferences.